



GRANTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

Washington State Conservation Commission
Grants Program Newsletter



No. 20

May 2000

Commission adopts new grants policies

At their May 18, 2000 meeting, the Commission members acted on proposed changes to the agency's grants policy. The changes were proposed by the Grants Policy Advisory Committee, which meets each biennium to review and recommend changes in how Commission grants are awarded and administered.

Members of the committee were:

- Rich Baden, Spokane County CD staff
- Karen Beatty, Department of Ecology
- Lynn Brown, CC Vice-Chair
- Lisa Bucy, Clark County CD staff
- Dave Clayton, Central Klickitat CD staff
- Joe Holtrop, Clallam CD staff
- Brad Johnson, Asotin County CD staff
- Craig Nelson, Okanogan CD staff
- Bas Scholten, Whatcom CD supervisor
- Tom Schultz, Lincoln County CD supervisor
- Wade Troutman, WACD Vice-President
- Rose Marie Winters, Benton CD supervisor

GRANTS POLICY CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

- ❖ That the ceiling for Competitive Grant awards be based on 15 percent of the total funding available, or \$125,000, whichever is less.
- ❖ That the rating categories and scoring for Competitive Grant applications be revised as follows:
 - A. Water Quality Problem and Goal Up to 100 points
 - B. Project Management Work Plan Up to 50% of A
 - C. Measuring Project Success Up to 25% of A
 - D. Local Support and Commitment Up to 25% of A
- Total Possible: 200 points
- ❖ That the Commission's cost share policy include riparian area practices in the same category as in-stream practices (i.e. up to 75% of the cost of the practice, with the remainder coming from any other source).

- ❖ That the Commission's cost share policy for riparian areas may also apply to irrigation ditches, canals, or ponds on a case-by-case basis. The local conservation district board of supervisors will make this determination based upon clear and direct benefits to water quality and related biological systems. Additional counsel may be provided by the Conservation Commission Field Operations Manager, if requested by the board.

GRANTS POLICY CHANGES DISAPPROVED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

- ❖ That adjacent upland BMPs that benefit riparian areas also be included at the higher [75%] cost share rate.
- ❖ That the definition of "riparian area" be based on one used by the California Department of Fish and Game.
- ❖ That a specific definition of "benefiting a riparian area" be adopted, and that a list of specific BMPs that "benefit a riparian area" be adopted.

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION WAS TABLED UNTIL THE JULY 20, 2000 COMMISSION MEETING. IN THE INTERIM, COMMISSION STAFF WILL WORK WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND ECOLOGY TO DETERMINE ITS LEGALITY AND FEASIBILITY:

- ❖ That the Commission authorize districts to use portions of either Competitive or Implementation grants as collateral for State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans from the Department of Ecology.

The approved changes in grants policy will be distributed to all districts soon in the form of a Procedure Manual revision.

Can you say, "MOO Money?"

The 2000 Legislature appropriated an additional \$2.5 million for the Commission's Dairy Nutrient Management program, to be used for cost sharing.

This money will be made available to the lead dairy districts based on need. That is, if you haven't

spent the dairy nutrient cost share money you already have, you aren't going to get any more.

In this case, "spent" means committed in a cost share agreement signed by both the dairy operator or owner AND the conservation district.

Details of how to apply for this funding will be sent to you shortly.

MOO Money II

The Commission has an additional \$210,000 in Dairy Nutrient Management Technical Assistance money to distribute to lead dairy districts.

If you are a lead dairy nutrient management district and do NOT need additional technical assistance money at this time, you may stop reading now. If you DO need more technical assistance money, read on...

This money will be amended into existing dairy nutrient management grants based on need. That is, you will have to tell us how much you need, why you need it, and what you will use it for.

By June 5, we will forward to each lead dairy district a simplified grant application form to apply for this technical assistance money. If you are a dairy district and don't need any more technical assistance money, don't apply for it. IF YOU DO WISH TO APPLY, YOU'LL NEED TO GET THE APPLICATION BACK TO US BY JUNE 15, 2000.

Please call Bob Bottman (360-407-6204) or Cheryl Witt (360-407-6205) if you have questions.

CREP Money II

Also, you will need to submit a CREP grant application to the Commission in order to continue this program at your district during the second year of the biennium. These applications will be mailed to you by mid-June. If you have questions, call Mark Clark at 360-407-6531.

There's still time to register for the WADE Conference!

According to Cora Amburn-Lijek, who's been handling registration, there are now 135 district employees, supervisors, and other members of the conservation partnership signed up for the WADE Annual Training Conference at Sleeping Lady.

There is no registration cutoff date, so you can still register.

Say "Hi" to the new engineers

Seven of the nine conservation districts that received grants for professional engineers have actually hired them! The other two districts, Okanogan and Pierce, are in the process of recruiting their engineers as you read this.

All engineers who are employed with a district will attend the June 20-22, 2000 WADE Annual Training Conference. At the conference, they will have a chance to network with their counterparts in other districts, learn about the challenges districts face statewide, and meet other district, state and NRCS staff.

Here is the current roster of the newly hired professional engineers and their home districts:

- Paul ClearyCentral Klickitat CD
- Shawn DesautelSpokane CD
- Lance HorningWhitman CD
- Russ LawrenceClark CD
- Thomas SlocumSkagit CD
- Mark StormMason CD
- Mark WasemillerSouth Yakima CD

Want to see your name in the 2000 Directory?

If so, and you also want the rest of the information about your district to be correct, you need to get changes from last year's directory information to Marvin Johnson, the Commission's program assistant.

Marvin has received updates from 38 districts. He's informed us that if the rest of you don't get your updated information to him by June 15th, he'll use the same page you had last year. Marvin's phone number is 360-407-6200. His e-mail address is: majo461@ecy.wa.gov.



The nicest winter I ever spent was summer in Puget Sound.

~ Samuel Clemens



Always drink upstream from the herd.